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A FEW WORDS MORE ABOUT THE MONEY.

BROOKLYN, *February* 3, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. BELLOWS: I think great good would be done by a brief statement of the mode of using money by the Sanitary Commission.

There is great ignorance of its scope, details, and need of vast funds; and where there is ignorance, there will be more or less fear and doubt whether such volumes of money as, in the imagination of the people, are rolling into its treasury from these national fairs, can be needed or well spent. Can you give a brief view of the *per cent.* of *expenses* to your *receipts;* a synopsis of the things embraced in your several departments; some facts as to amounts required for particularized articles, such as clothes department, vegetables, &c., &c.? I want what can be read by a mechanic or laborer in two minutes, to give him an idea of the breadth not only of your sphere, but of the complexity of *things* required; and how much it requires, for instance, to care for a thousand wounded or sick men, and what number of thousands have been aided, and what proportion you have borne. Can you help me?

Yours, truly,

H. W. BEECHER.

NEW YORK, *February* 8, 1864.

REV. H. W. BEECHER:

DEAR SIR: At my first leisure I proceed to reply in full to your note, to which you have already received a condensed reply, such as a working man might read in two minutes. It is important that the public should understand the magnitude and extent of the sickness against which the Government is compelled to provide, in order to understand why so much, such constant, and such costly supplementary assistance is required from the Sanitary Commission.

Our hospital record shows that 500,000 men passed through the general hospitals this last year! We have no record of the previous year, but have reason to think from the less veteran character of the troops, that the number could not have been less, but rather more. The first year fewer troops were in the field, and perhaps there were not more than half as many ill in general hospital. But already you have a million and a quarter. Now recall the fact that only those too ill to be taken care of in the regimental hospitals go to the general hospitals, and you will realize that probably as many more have been in the regimental as in the general hospitals. Here, then, at a rough calculation, pretending to no precision, but near enough and undeniable enough to be a basis of practical judgment, you have two millions and a half of men sick at one time or another since the war began. I suppose it to be literally true, that as many men have been in the hospital as there have been in the field. Some have not been sick at all; others have been sick twice, thrice, a half dozen times. I do not believe it would be a misleading

reckoning to say that the actual count of our armies each year in the field, is the tally of the hospital. This is not strange, for is not that man fortunate who stays at home, who is not sick once in the twelvemonth? What, then, must the exposures of the military service add to this risk? Almost every man in our army has had to go through acclimation, as well as through the hardening process of an untried and exposed life. Recollect now that this sickness is not scattered among a sparse population, but thrown upon masses of condensed humanity; that the sick men are not members of families, with wives and mothers to take care of them; that their care is an encumbrance to military movements, weakens military strength, as much by the care-takers it detaches from ordinary duty, as by the absence of the sick themselves; that medical stores *follow* commissary and ammunition stores; that the medical department has no independent transportation, and cannot have; that there are only a surgeon and assistant surgeon in charge of a regiment, and you can judge of the vastness of the work and the difficulty of the circumstances under which the Government labors in its care of our sick.

There is no pretence that all these men are very sick, although those who go into general hospital usually are so; nor that their sicknesses are very long. They vary from three days to three weeks, to three months. What the average number of sick at all times is, (allowing for variation of seasons,) it is not perhaps, for military reasons, expedient to say just now. But it might be justly said, that not half the force on the rolls is ever in actual fighting condition; and that the population of the general and the regimental hospitals, with the sick in quarters, presents at all times an appalling amount of suffering and debility, of peril to life and of appeal to humanity.

No government on earth ever did or ever can take satisfactory care of such numbers of sick men. An epidemic (cholera or yellow fever) in a great city presents an analogous case. Suppose all the care of the sick was thrown at such time on the doctors and professional nurses! Everybody has to turn doctor and nurse at such crises, and everybody has to become everybody's else—brother or father, or sister or mother.

The amount of sickness in an army that has to be scattered over so many degrees of longitude and latitude as ours, where the men are always acclimating, must be great, and cannot be calculated. Nor can any human wisdom tell where a great battle may come off or when, or what its result will be, or how many wounded men may result from it, nor which side will have the care of the wounded—their own and their enemy's it may be.

Under these circumstances the U. S. Sanitary Commission says that if only ten per cent. of what ordinary humanity requires to be done for 500,000 cases of sickness in the year, are by the most rigid construction thrown upon *its* care, there are 50,000 cases of sickness to be considered and provided against. Now, if anybody will think what amount of agency, transportation, clothing, medicines, stimulants, delicate food, 50,000 sick men (supposing each case to need only a month's care) must require, they may see how two millions and a half a year may be expended on them. What is fifty dollars on each case! A sick man, sick for a month, is clothed, nursed, fed, saved, for fifty dollars. The country has been paying out of its local beneficence three and four hundred dollars *bounty*, to send a man to the war. Is it economical or not to pay fifty dollars, to save his life after he enters the service?

Now, because there are no given 50,000 cases, which we have under our entire charge, it does not change the case. All the 2,500,000 sick cases of this war in General or Regimental Hospitals (not to speak of sick in quarters) have come, to the extent, I don't doubt, of 20 per cent.; but let us for moderation say only 10 per cent. of their hospital wants, upon our care, and this care has been expended upon the whole army for three years, at a cost actually to the country through our treasury of $3.20 per case, (not per man.) Such is the *immense addition*, held so extravagant and so uncalled for by some, which the Sanitary Commission has made to the regular succor offered by the Government itself, through the Medical Department.

The business of the U. S. Sanitary Commission lies—

I. In collecting supplies. This is done through its Branches. During the first two years the homes of the country sent of their superfluity immense quantities of sheets, pillow-cases, comforters, blankets, shirts, drawers, socks, &c. This superfluity is long ago exhausted, while the want continues. Of course now they must buy the raw material, and make up newly what they originally could take out of their closets and trunks. Hence the necessity of the great fairs to raise the money to purchase the clothing and other supplies which they obtained formerly in another way. All the money raised by the fairs will (with small exceptions) be spent at home in creating supplies. It takes about fifteen-sixteenths of all the cost of the U. S. Sanitary Commission to furnish its supplies and transportation. The other one-sixteenth goes into the support of its homes, its lodges, its machinery of distribution, its hospital directory, and hospital and camp inspection. The *cash* which actually reaches the Central treasury of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, has in three years amounted to about *one million of dollars, of which the Pacific Coast has given nearly three-quarters!* It would be well for those who on the Atlantic coast sometimes question our economy, to consider this fact.

Of this money, more than half has been spent in the purchase of such supplies as the homes of the land do not and cannot furnish, and in the transportation of them. Such as

Condensed milk by the ton.
Beef-stock " "
Wines and spirits by the barrel.
Crackers and farinaceous food by the ton.
Tea, coffee and sugar, by the chest and hogshead.
Crutches, bed-rests, mattresses and bedsteads, by the 100.
Cargoes of ice, potatoes, onions, and curried cabbage, lemons, oranges, and antiscorbutics, and tonics. At times we have supplied not only the sick, but a whole army threatened with scurvy, with the means of averting it; and we have averted it at Vicksburg, at Murfreesboro', before Charleston. Thousands of barrels of onions, thousands of barrels of potatoes, hundreds of barrels of curried cabbage, have been forwarded to various corps, even as far as Texas, to appease the demon of scurvy, and save our troops.

The other half-million has been used in supporting two hundred experts, medical inspectors, relief agents, clerks, wagoners, and accompanying agents, in the field, or in our offices and depots, through whom our work is done. These two hundred men receive, on an average, $2.00 per day for labor, which is, say half of it, highly skilled, sometimes of professional eminence, and worth from five to ten times that amount. Few of these men could be had for the money, but they work for love and patriotism, and are content with a bare support. This costs $12,000 a month. The Board, (all included, twenty-one in number)—president, vice-president, treasurer, medical committee, standing committee—*give* their services and their time gratuitously. *They receive nothing. Their traveling expenses alone are partly refunded them, and these are trifling, excepting the case of one or two who go frequently on tours of observation.**

II. The next large expense is the support of twenty-five soldiers' homes, or lodges, scattered over the whole field of war, from New Orleans to Washington, including Vicksburg, Memphis, Cairo, Chattanooga, Nashville, Louisville, Washington, &c., &c. In these homes and lodges *twenty-three hundred* soldiers (different ones) *daily* receive shelter, food, medical aid, protection, and care. These soldiers are such as are crowded by the rigidity of the military system out of the regular channels; soldiers left behind, astray, who have lost their military status, convalescents, discharged men, not able to get their pay. Of these, the average length of time they are on our hands is about three days. The priceless value of this supplementary system no tongue can tell. The abandonment of it would create an amount of suffering which a multiplication of 2300 by 365 days in the year, will but serve to hint at.

* Up to the first of January, 1864, the amount drawn by individual members of the Board for traveling expenses, did not exceed one hundred dollars a year per member, (say $100,) and did not cover over one-half the actual expenditure made by each.

In connection with these homes, at the great military centres, New Orleans, Louisville, Washington, are bureaus in aid of the discharged soldier's great necessities, growing out of his loss of papers in battle, or during the bewilderment of sickness, or through the ignorance of his superiors, or his own:

1. A Claim Agency, to secure his bounty.
2. A Pension Agency.
3. A Back-pay Agency.

The mercy of these ministries, by which soldiers and their families, helpless without this aid—the prey of sharpers, runners, and grog-shops—are put in speedy possession of their rights, is inexpressible. We have often $20,000 a day of back pay in our office at Washington alone, which might have been lost forever, or delayed until it was no longer needed by the soldier's own family, without this system.

Sometimes a dozen letters must pass back and forth with various officials, to verify a single claim. By these agencies, wronged men, stricken in disgrace from the army rolls, are restored; and in several cases men condemned to be shot as deserters, have been saved from an undeserved death.

To these are to be added—

1. A special provision for wives, mothers, and sisters, who have expended all the little means of home in getting to Washington or Louisville, to see and protect their sick relatives.

2. A home for faithful nurses broken down in the service.

3. Arrangements for sending very sick soldiers home under escort.

III. A hospital directory, by which the whereabouts of all sick men is determined. There are 600,000 names in its books. It is corrected daily. It saves endless confusion, suspense, and misery; prevents needless journeys; answers the most urgent questions; relieves the Homes of the feeling that their boys are lost in the crowded hospitals; blesses and keeps heart-whole hundreds of wives, mothers, and sisters, every day. It costs $20,000 a year to maintain it, and it is worth a million, if human anxiety can be estimated in money.

IV. Hospital Inspection. Sixty of the most skillful surgeons and physicians in the nation were—eight or ten at a time—six months engaged, under the direction of the Commission, in a systematic and scientific survey of *all* the general hospitals. They inspected 70,000 beds; saw 200,000 patients, and reported in 4,000 written pages the critical results of these inquiries. Can any body estimate the scientific and humane value of such a survey, brought home to the surgeon, the medical authorities, and the Government? Can our hospital system dispense with such a review on the part of the homes, and by the civil medical profession?

This work we shall resume after a proper interval. Dr. Newberry reports that the *best* hospital he has seen was at Bridgeport, near Chattanooga—a field hospital! What a pride and satisfaction to know that science and humanity are in the very front of our armies!

V. The transportation of the sick, carried on by us for the Government in vessels from the Peninsula—from which we brought 8,000 men in a comfort wholly unattainable by Government transportation, aided by our generous medical students and our heroic, though delicate, women—we have since largely carried on in our patent hospital cars, in which the sick, without jar, can be conveyed hundreds of miles with little suffering or injury. We have these cars on the main lines, east and west, along which sick soldiers are carried.

VI. We supply the barren market of Washington with daily car-loads of fresh hospital supplies from Philadelphia. All the beef, mutton, poultry, butter, eggs, vegetables, used in *all* the hospitals at Washington, are selected, forwarded, distributed by the Sanitary Commission—the Medical Department refunding our outlay at the end of each month, saving the profit made by ordinary dealers, and securing wholesome food to the sick.

VII. The battle-field service of the Commission is perhaps too well known to require any elucidation. But let us take the case of Gettysburg. We had accumulated stores, and placed agents at Harrisburg, Pa., Frederick, Md., and Chambersburg, and at Baltimore, to watch the probable necessities of Meade's army. We had inspectors and wagon-trains marching with

it; one with each column. The dreadful battle came off. The best calculations of the Government had anticipated the wants of 10,000 wounded men. The result of that glorious, yet horrible contest, left about 25,000 wounded men (our own and the enemy's) on an area of four miles square. Every church, private house, barn, shed, was crammed with wounded men—additional to field hospitals (in tents) whitening the hill sides, and drenching the soil in the blood of amputated limbs. The railroads clogged with trains forwarding troops to re-enforce Meade in his pursuit of Lee; the bridges burnt by the enemy; neither cars nor locomotives enough to do half the required business; the surgeons and stewards compelled largely to accompany the troops, who expected another battle within a week—what would have become of those noble sufferers, if the *half*-preparation (*not* half) which the providence of the Government had made, had not been supplemented for the first week or two, *full one-half* by the Sanitary Commission, aided by the Christian Commission and other Relief Agencies? Look at the list of things* (appended) furnished them alone, and remember that this was one single battle-field, and cost the Sanitary Commission in stores, clothing, food, and transportation, $75,000. Was there one dollar more spent than was called for? Was one dollar misspent? Was not the moral and material economy in the saving of life, (I believe thousands of lives were literally saved by our succor on that occasion alone,) and in the saving of pain and needless misery, such as every benefactor of the Commission must forever rejoice in?

Let me only add, that one dollar in hand before a battle, and spent in providing against its wants, by posting agents, creating depots, and arranging for the relief of the expected sufferers, is worth five dollars thrown in after the battle, to meet its dreadful necessities. For economy's sake we need a full treasury.

It is this sort of Providence which the Commission is always practicing. Its whole machinery is adapted to prevent disease and sickness, by a department which I have not yet mentioned—that by which it circulates through the army by means of its Sanitary Inspectors, constant warnings, by an elaborate system of verbal counsel and

*Supplies Distributed during and immediately after the Battles at Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1863.

Of Articles of Clothing, etc., viz.:

Of Drawers, (woolen) 5,310 pairs	$9,292 50
" " (cotton) 1,833 pairs	1,833 00
" Shirts, (woolen) 7,158	14,316 00
" " (cotton) 3,266	3,266 00
" Pillows, 2,114	1,268 40
" Pillow Cases, 264	105 60
" Bed Sacks, 1,630	3,463 75
" Blankets, 1,007	3,021 00
" Sheets, 274	274 00
" Wrappers, 508	1,498 60
" Handkerchiefs, 2,659	319 08
" Stockings, (woolen) 3,560 pairs	1,780 00
" " (cotton) 2,258 pairs	451 60
" Bed Utensils, 728	182 00
" Towels and Napkins, 10,000	1,500 00
" Sponges, 2,300	230 00
" Combs, 1,500	60 00
" Buckets, 200	75 00
" Soap, (Castile) 250 pounds	50 00
" Oil Silk, 300 yards	225 00
" Tin Basins, Cups, etc., 7,000	700 00
" Old Linen, Bandages, etc., 110 barrels	1,100 00
" Water Tanks, 7	70 00
" Water Coolers, 46	230 00
" Bay Rum and Cologne Water, 225 bottles	112 50
" Fans, 3,500	145 00
" Chloride of Lime, 11 barrels	99 00
" Shoes and Slippers, 4,000 pairs	2,400 00
" Crutches, 1,200	480 00
" Lanterns, 180	90 00
" Candles, 350 pounds	70 00
" Canvas, 300 square yards	360 00
" Musquito Netting, 648 pieces	810 00
" Paper, 237 quires	23 70
" Pants, Coats, Hats, 189 pieces	96 75
" Plaster, 16 rolls	4 00

Of Articles of Sustenance, viz.:

Of Fresh Poultry and Mutton, 11,000 pounds	1,540 00
" " Butter, 6,430 pounds	1,286 00
" " Eggs, (chiefly collected for the occasion at farm-houses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey,) 8,500 dozens	1,700 00
" " Garden Vegetables, 675 bushels	337 50
" " Berries, 48 bushels	72 00
" " Bread, 12,900 loaves	645 00
" Ice, 20,000 pounds	100 00
" Concentrated Beef Soup, 3,800 pounds	3,800 00
" " Milk, 12,500 pounds	3,125 00
" Prepared Farinaceous Food, 7,000 pounds	700 00
" Dried Fruit, 3,500 pounds	350 00
" Jellies and Conserves, 2,000 jars	1,000 00
" Tamarinds, 750 gallons	600 00
" Lemons, 116 boxes	580 00
" Oranges, 46 boxes	230 00
" Coffee, 850 pounds	272 00
" Chocolate, 831 pounds	249 30
" Tea, 426 pounds	383 40
" White Sugar, 6,800 pounds	1,156 00
" Syrups, (Lemon, etc.) 785 bottles	596 25
" Brandy, 1,250 bottles	1,250 00
" Whiskey, 1,168 bottles	700 80
" Wine, 1,148 bottles	861 00
" Ale, 600 gallons	180 00
" Biscuit, Crackers, and Rusk, 134 barrels	670 00
" Preserved Meats, 500 pounds	125 00
" Preserved Fish, 3,600 pounds	720 00
" Pickles, 400 gallons	120 00
" Tobacco, 100 pounds	70 00
" Tobacco Pipes, 1,000	5 00
" Indian Meal, 1,621 pounds	40 50
" Starch, 1,074 pounds	75 18
" Codfish, 3,848 pounds	269 36
" Canned Fruit, 582 cans	436 50
" " Oysters, 72 cans	36 00
" Brandy Peaches, 303 jars	303 00
" Catsup, 43 jars	11 00
" Vinegar, 24 bottles	3 00
" Jamaica Ginger, 43 jars	37 25
Total	$74,838 52

advice, and by a series of hygienic and medical tracts, warnings as to the dangers from bad diet, needless exposure, poor ventilation, ill-selected or badly-drained camps, and the neighborhood of infectious swamps and bottoms. All the knowledge of the exposures, wants, sicknesses of the army which it thus obtains, it tabulates in its Statistical Bureau, both for its own information and guidance, and for future scientific use. It looks with the utmost confidence on an advancement of Sanitary science by this means—of priceless life-saving value to all future military movements.

The publication of appeals, information, reports, to maintain open and frank relations with the homes and the public, from which its pecuniary and moral support must be derived, completes the round of the Commission's duties, always excepting the special labors in behalf of disabled soldiers and medico-military interests daily thrown on its hands.

To recapitulate with sole reference to expense, in round numbers, and with only an approximation to exactness. I add the following facts :

1. The Board of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Medical Committee, and Standing Committee, give their time and services gratuitously. They are refunded (in part) their traveling expenses; nothing more.

2. Their Agents, two hundred in number, General and Associate Secretaries, Medical and Sanitary Inspectors, Relief Agents, Clerks, depot and store-house keepers, wagoners, &c., receiving some more and some less, average just $2.00 per day, or less than ordinary mechanics' wages. Total $12,000 per month for the vast *human* machinery of the Commission, stretching from Texas to the Potomac, from before Charleston to Kansas.

3. About fifteen-sixteenths of all the eight millions the Commission has received, goes on to the backs, or into the mouths of the soldiers.

4. The cost of collecting and distributing supplies is less than *three per cent.*

5. About twenty-three hundred men are now, and for a long time have been, in daily use and enjoyment of the Homes and Lodges of the Commission.

6. The battle-field service of the Commission requires a large accumulation of funds and of supplies. At Murfreesboro', Antietam, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Vicksburg, Port Hudson, sudden and vast demands were made, and are always likely to be made. Fifty thousand dollars would not cover the cost of our whole service in the first two weeks after any one of our great battles; at Gettysburg it was $75,000.

7. We reckon that if we divided all the aid we have given to the sick in regimental, general, and other hospitals, to men in peril of sickness from scurvy and exposure, it would amount to $3.20 a case; many men having received this several times, as often as they were sick. The seriously wounded have been often—as at Gettysburg—the receivers of as much as $10 aid per man. We mention this to show not how much, but how little, this sometimes called *extravagant* Commission costs, considering the blessings it is the almoner of.

Finally, the only uncertain element in these calculations, is *the estimated value of our supplies.* The uncertainty here is not due to want of great pains to ascertain the facts. We shall very soon be able to lay before the public the exact estimates, how many shirts and their estimated value, how many drawers, stockings, sheets, comforters, &c., and the estimated value of each; and they can then judge for themselves. Meanwhile they must give our statement only such credit as they may think our opportunity to know, and our desire to state frankly the exact truth, entitle it to.

With great regard,

Yours, truly,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

President.

THE PEOPLE AND THE ARMY IN EUROPE.

It is the custom on the continent of Europe to keep up the organization of the army in all its branches in time of peace as well as in time of war. The staff, and the quartermaster's and medical department, are maintained, and carry on their work when the troops are in garrison as well as when in the field; and it has always been the boast of continental military men, when

arguing against the English and American custom of breaking up the machine as soon as the war is over, that in their way much suffering and confusion and shortcoming are avoided whenever there is a sudden outbreak of hostilities. And there is no doubt that there is immense gain in having the whole of the elaborate apparatus required for the feeding, clothing, doctoring, and lodging of the troops, in constant readiness. There is great saving of time and great saving of money, whenever the emergency arises which calls for its use. The persons who are to work it are on the spot, trained to their duties, and their superiors are familiar with their character and capacities; and there is, consequently, much less chance of fraud or corruption in the purchase and distribution of stores. The privations under which the entire British army before Sebastopol came very near succumbing in the first winter of the siege, were due almost altogether to the fact, that the commissariat and quartermaster's and medical department had to be improvised when the war broke out. There was hardly a man in them who had had any experience in the performance of the duties which then devolved on him. The quartermaster-general had to rely on officers drawn from line regiments, and who had every thing to learn as regards supplies and transportation after they took the field; the commissariat was served by clerks taken suddenly from the foreign and other government offices in London; and very few of the surgeons had ever been in charge of a regular hospital, and had ever had to take care of sick, except those of a single battalion in barracks. The world knows what the result was.

It does not appear, however, when the test of a sudden call for active service comes to be applied, even to the best organized of European armies, that it is by any means an easy matter for the Government to provide by any precautions, however elaborate, which have to be taken on a great scale—against the thousand contingencies to which an army is exposed, once it quits its quarters at home. There is a limit to the efficiency of every system, however well-planned, which has to be worked by men with ordinary nerves and ordinary capacities. There is sure to be a weak point in it—a flaw of some kind, which reveals itself whenever the strain begins to be felt. The French lost a whole division from cholera or fever, in the Dobrudscha, in the summer of 1854, mainly through the want of shelter, transport and medical attendance; and in 1856 their army in the Crimea began to suffer severely from the lack of transportation by sea. And yet the French army is beyond all question the best organized in the world; the one for which thorough system in the smallest as well as greatest things, has done most. A very large portion of the talent of a nation, in which talent of the highest order abounds in a very unusual degree, has for over half a century been devoted without stint to the task of perfecting every arrangement that can in the smallest degree contribute to its efficiency as a fighting machine. And among these arrangements it is well known all that relates to the health of the soldier holds the highest place.

We have now, in the case of the Prussian army taking the field against Denmark, a fresh proof that when the military authorities have done their best under the completest of military organizations, there may still remain voids which private benevolence can alone fill up. In other words, even our army, composed entirely of volunteers, raised and equipped in haste, with an improvised administration, and without many trained officers, is not by any means the only army which stands in need of a Sanitary Commission. We find from the *Cologne Gazette* of January 11, that:

"It is very desirable that without delay voluntary associations should be made by the public to furnish the German troops, now in arms against Denmark, with clothing suited to the cold weather. Their supply is not enough to protect them against this enemy. The subjoined letter from the Prussian Minister of War is a confession, and a very significant one too, although not nearly broad enough in its statements. The association in Halle to supply the Prussian troops sent to Holstein with warm winter clothing, asked the Minister of War whether he thought their purpose commendable and useful. He answered: 'It is true that it is the duty of this department to give our troops clothing suited for winter; but it is equally true that owing to the suddenness with which we have been obliged to move our army, it will be difficult to give the men a full supply of proper clothing, unless we receive the patriotic help of all good citizens. For these rea-

sons I shall be very grateful to your association for a full and prompt supply of woolen socks, gloves, under-shirts and drawers, and for articles for hospital use; and those who have money to give, can direct it in no way better than through your society.'"

Nor is this movement entirely a spontaneous one. The Government is stimulating it by open appeals. The same journal of January 12th says:

"A collection 'by authority' for the help of Prussian soldiers excites everywhere, but especially in the States outside of Prussia, very great feeling. The official call is as follows: 'Our columns are now moving towards Lubeck, to be ready to enter Holstein. In consequence of excessive cold weather the men suffer terribly for want of warm clothing. Many of the soldiers have no woolen socks, and only a little straw or a few rags with which to fill their shoes, and are in great danger of having their toes frost-bitten. Very few of them have shirts of any kind, or nearly enough under-clothing to protect them from the cold. I propose collecting articles of this kind, and money to purchase and have made others as fast as possible, to be forwarded to the army. I therefore appeal to all who are friends of our soldiers.'

"Breitenbauch, Royal Commissioner."

And in the same paper of the 15th, there is a long report of a debate in the House of Representatives at Berlin on the 13th. Mr. Becker moved:

"That it was the first duty of the Government to procure at once a full supply of stout underclothing suitable for the use of the soldiers in their winter campaign."

Mr. Rönne said:

"That after granting 300,000 thalers for an increase of pay in the army, we are now told that our troops suffer for necessary clothing, that the Government has been obliged to appeal to public charity for help. In the States with which we were in alliance these facts may well excite astonishment, for how can Prussia protect them with troops when our army is already in such a plight. It is the case too with the armies on the Polish border, as well as with that in Holstein; and in both places the patriotism of our women has been put to a practical test to overcome these sad necessities. The Minister of War tells us that our troops are supplied fully, and he tells the women who offer their help quite another story. I agree with him in giving them the heartiest thanks for their past labors and for all the good they mean to do in the future, but the Government must not be content with accepting their assistance; it must supply all that is wanted for a winter campaign promptly and plentifully."

The fact is, that it is not because armies now suffer more than they did in other wars, that we are witnessing both here and in Europe these voluntary efforts for their relief on the part of the people, but because the world has in the last fifty years made such advances in humanity that the public in Christian countries will not look on calmly while scenes of horror pass before their eyes, which in former times excited no comment whatever, and were deemed inevitable. During the great struggles which followed the French revolution—to go no further back—the sufferings and losses of all the great armies then in the field, from lack of supplies, medicines, attendance, and sanitary precautions, were prodigious. But not only was public benevolence at that period much less active than it is now, and human life less valued, but the means either of obtaining information or sending help so completely wanting, that voluntary organizations in aid of the sick and wounded would have been either impossible or useless. In the absence of newspapers, little was known of what was passing in the field; and that little came at irregular intervals by private letters, which were seldom received until weeks after the battle had been fought or the movement been made, which left its victims by the thousands on the field or the roadside. And it is hardly necessary to say, that without the electric telegraph, and the railroad, and the steamboat, it would have been absurd to have attempted to follow an army up either with sanitary counsels or with actual relief. A French army operating in Germany or Italy, an English army operating in Spain or the Crimea, or an American army in Tennessee or Louisiana, would have been, fifty years ago, as much out of the reach of their friends at home, as far removed from aid or advice, as they would be nowadays in China or Upper India. Sanitary Commissions, or, in other words, attempts on the part of people at home to lessen the misery of war by voluntary efforts, are new mainly because they are now for the first time feasible. The indifference of the public to the lot of the rank and file which shows itself in the history of all past wars, has now disappeared; but the change would have been of little value if science had not supplied the means of exhibiting it in action. The army would profit little by this pity, if it took three weeks to go from New York to Tennessee.

THE FAIRS.

The public mind appears seriously exercised at this moment upon the subject of "Raffling," in connection with "the Metropolitan" and other Fairs. The U. S. Sanitary Commission, representing the beneficence of all classes of the community towards our sick and wounded soldiers, and solicitous, on patriotic as well as humane grounds, to enlist the sympathies and co-operation of the largest number of American citizens in this common work of mercy, has felt it to be necessary to establish one rule in regard to the source of its support; *i.e.*, to accept, without question and from all quarters, such gifts as were brought to its treasury. Accordingly, neither political, theological, or moral questions have come before it. It has studiously avoided complication with the methods employed by those who have supplied its pecuniary necessities, declining to patronize or make itself responsible for either good or bad plans for raising money, and simply engaging, as trustees of the people's bounty, to spend the means placed in its hands in the most moral, the most patriotic, and most faithful manner. It holds itself strictly responsible for the safe custody, the wise and economical disbursment, and the most humane application of the funds committed to it; but not for the methods by which they are raised. Any other course would make the U. S. Sanitary Commission the moral censor of the public, and cut off the sympathies of large bodies of people—a loss even less important in a pecuniary than in a patriotic light.

It is not to be supposed, however, that the U. S. Sanitary Commission is indifferent to the morals of the community, or to the ways employed to aid and assist its own work. While it cannot prescribe those ways, or go behind the gifts it receives, to catechize the motives or the methods of its benefactors, it earnestly desires, as a body of thoughtful citizens engaged in so serious a business, to see a careful respect for the laws, a tender regard to the moral interests of society, a profound reverence for God and duty, animating all its supporters. Confessing that the moral interests of the community are far more important than the success of its own work, it could not desire to flourish at the expense of any permanent principle of truth, justice, and religion.

In regard to the "Raffling," if the question were one the Sanitary Commission had a right to settle, the Board could not hesitate to decide against it, as not being strictly legal; as being at the best of disputed moral complexion, and at the worst, decidedly evil in its tendencies if not wrong in its principle. The practical settlement of the question lies with the gentlemen and lady managers of the Fair. They have thus far endeavored in their plan to free raffling from its universally recognized evils, judging it to be an essential in some form to the success of the Fair. That they may, under the discussion which is now going on, see it to be as immediately expedient as it is desirable on several grounds to abandon it wholly, is the wish and hope of the Board. The Sanitary Commission is perfectly willing to sacrifice any pecuniary interest in the returns of the Fair, to the practical testing of the question, are "Raffles" necessary evils? They think not.

Knowing the conscientious character of the ladies who have the Fair in charge, and that their efforts are steadily directed by the most patriotic, humane, and elevated feelings, it is not necessary to add that we utterly repudiate any appearance of the least question of their own high motives in the course hitherto pursued by them in regard to this and all matters appertaining to the Metropolitan Fair.

THE CAMPAIGN AT NEWBERN, N. C.

I take advantage of the New York boat to-day to send a rapid report of the interesting events now transpiring here (Feb. 2d) deferring till the next mail the subjects of your communications of December 16th and 31st, which a protracted pneumonic attack has prevented me sooner responding to.

The enemy came down upon us in force yesterday, about 3 A. M. They attacked the outposts at Bachelor's Creek, nine miles up the railroad, held by the 132d New York, under Colonel Claassen, with a company also of the 1st North Carolina Union Volunteers, (whites.) The rebels attacked in overwhelming numbers. Eleven men held a large body of the enemy "at

bay," at a bridge about a mile and a half from camp, for more than an hour. The rebels, meanwhile felling trees and hauling rails, constructed a temporary bridge below, and crossed over cavalry, infantry, and artillery. Five companies of the 17th Massachusetts Volunteers, under Lieut.-Colonel Fellows, were already on the way from Newbern to re-enforce Colonel Claassen, but were not in season to interrupt the crossing. Col. Claassen fought desperately for his camp, the best-regulated camp I have seen in the service. At 9 A. M. he telegraphed that the rebels were across the creek, pressing him hard, and he was falling back. The rebels were reported at ten thousand to twelve thousand strong ; prisoners say twelve thousand. Knowing that Col. Claassen had but a single assistant surgeon with his command, Dr. Gröninger, while Lieut.-Col. Fellows had his surgeon, Dr. Galloupe, I started with my brother at 10 A. M., horseback, in company with Dr. Cougill, medical inspector of hospitals of this department, and Dr. Morony, acting medical purveyor, with instruments and battle-field relief. Three miles out we encountered our infantry straggling in towards town, and reporting themselves pressed by numbers, and that the artillery had fallen back from Bachelor's Creek and taken position five miles out at the "Cross Roads;" that Dr. Galloupe was a mile and a half further on than we, at a house with a wounded officer. We pressed on. Soon the artillery and cavalry passed us in retreat, taking position at the railroad crossing, three miles from town, where the infantry had rallied in some numbers. We continued our course to the house where Dr. Galloupe had his hospital wagon and patient. Dr. Cougill, my brother, and myself rode up to the house and went in. We found him attending to Adjutant ——, of the 17th M.V., severely, and apparently fatally, wounded in the region of the stomach, and suffering extremely from the shock. We advised his immediate removal to the wagon and quick transmission to town. Dr. Galloupe was already making his preparations for it, his conveyance being excellently adapted for the purpose. We were now in advance of any supporting force, and the enemy rapidly following up our retreating soldiers. As we turned our horses into the road, after leaving Dr. Galloupe and his patient and attendants, we were saluted with four or five carbine shots from the enemy, who filled the road about three hundred yards behind us. We rode *rapidly* towards town until we got to the rear of our battery at the railroad crossing, and there halted until the rebels came in sight again, and had received fifteen or twenty rounds from our howitzers. Dr. Galloupe and the wounded adjutant were taken prisoners a minute after we left them. About 11 A. M. the last railroad train got in from Bachelor's Creek, with the sick, officers' families, &c. They were fired into, and much anxiety was subsequently felt for Col. Claassen and the rest of his staff and command. He, however, had taken to the swamp, and got in towards evening safely. At roll-call seventy of his command were missing; he knows that about thirty were killed outright by the enemy's sharp-shooters. There were *comparatively* few wounded. The 17th M. V. report about sixty missing. Only six or seven of the wounded are within our lines. Lieut.-Col. Fellows, of the 17th, is a prisoner. One man of the 132d had both legs taken off by a fence-rail, which was struck by a shell and swept against him. The same rail struck across the legs of Major Huston and disabled him, but not so as to prevent his attention to duty until this morning, when he gave himself up to rest and medical attention. The fate of small detachments of our outposts, occupying isolated positions, is still in doubt.

The enemy followed our troops to within sight of our defensive works, and yesterday afternoon were shelled from Forts Totten and Gaston. Our men have behaved with gallantry; and Gen. Palmer, now in command in the absence of Gen. Peck, on leave north, has the defences manned, and the whole force on the alert. On account of the superior force of the rebels we anticipated a night attack, which would bring most of the casualties within the intrenchments, and make most of the relief work at the general hospitals and in transitu from the intrenchments and posts to the wards. My brother prepared some dozens of small hampers, of a size convenient for

distribution along the lines of defence, and each containing the necessary appliances of a field hospital, and for individual relief on the field or on the road—such as stimulants, anæsthetics, lint, silk, adhesive plaster, bandages, linen, sponge, &c., &c. The agents of the Christian Commission, Rev. Messrs. Sage and Hammond, offered their services, and held themselves subject to call at any moment to assist in the relief. The night passed off, however, without any demonstration by the enemy on the land. They served us, however, a very clever and bold trick on the river—one from which we can derive not even a shadow of satisfaction, nor consider with any self-complacency. They boarded the gunboat Underwriter, lying in position in the Neuse River, and under the guns of Fort Stevenson on this bank and Fort Anderson on the opposite bank; took off all her officers, and all her crew, except some six or eight who escaped, and two or three killed on deck; set the gunboat on fire, and she burned up. Capt. Westervelt, who commanded the gunboat, is said to have been carried off, bound hand and foot. They had previously offered a reward for his capture, on account of his stringent blockade in the waters of the Albemarle. The Underwriter had a crew of some seventy to eighty men. The town were awakened about 4 A. M. to-day by the explosion of her guns, and about a quarter past five her magazine blew up with a terrific explosion. Several of the boats' crew jumped overboard and swam ashore; so also did some five or six of the rebels who had tarried too long on board. They say that the boarding party were marines, engineers, and other necessary hands for working a war steamer; that they were brought on from Savannah for this very purpose, and have been prowling on the banks of the river several weeks, awaiting their opportunity. Their object was to use her at once in a raid among the shipping in the harbor and about the wharves; but the proximity of the forts, which commenced firing on her as they were weighing anchor, baffled them. They numbered about a hundred and twenty. One of our marines, who swam ashore, is in the hospital, with a bullet wound in the knee; had the ball extracted this forenoon. The whole affair of the gunboat's capture was a well-managed surprise, awfully discreditable to our flotilla.

Yesterday afternoon, while the skirmishing was going on in the broad clearing between Fort Totten and the woods, and all in sight of the traverse parapet of the fort, Dr. Baker, who has been attending the small-pox hospitals, started out, with three ambulances and a flag of truce, to bring into town the inmates of the white small-pox hospital, about a mile in front of the breastworks. He was seen to parley with the enemy for some time, when they took him off prisoner, with his ambulances, drivers, and teams. They had previously taken away the negro attendants of the hospital, and *all the provisions*. Dr. Baker is assistant surgeon of the 12th New York Cavalry.

Last night I learn that our independent scouts, or one at least, ventured in a boat up the river, near to Bachelor's Creek, to try and discover the fate of some of our unaccounted-for detachments. He heard towards morning discharges of rifles, which leads us to suppose some of our soldiers missing still retain their organization; and the report this afternoon is, that Lieut.-Col. Fellows is holding them together, and endeavoring to fight his way in.

Our cavalry have been skirmishing all the forenoon in front of Fort Totten; and occasionally the fort has thrown a heavy shell over their heads into the woods, where the enemy are sheltered. My brother has just come in (3 P. M.) from Fort Totten, and says the enemy are reported to be throwing up breastworks at the railroad crossing, three miles out the Neuse Road.

The forts are now, (4½ P. M.,) at intervals, firing heavy guns.

We have had no communication with the enemy. The medical director thinks Drs. Galloupe and Baker (prisoners) will see that our wounded captured are well cared for; and the General is not inclined at this moment to parley with the rebels.—*Dr. Page's Report.*

Mr. Gordon Grant, Relief Agent of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, left Lakeport on the 16th ult. with vegetables for the troops at Fort Pitt and Ship Island. Mr. Grant afterwards went on a like mission to the Brashear City Military Hospitals.

THE COMMISSION AMONG THE CONVALESCENTS.

At the late quarterly meeting of the Commission, a very full and interesting report was presented by Miss A. M. Bradley, the agent of the Commission at the Convalescent Camp, Alexandria, Va. It covered the operations of Relief from January 17th to December 31st, 1863.

During this period of twelve months 111,825 soldiers entered the camp, in passing from the military hospitals to their respective regiments, or to their homes on certificates of permanent disability. To these soldiers, including the inmates of the Camp Hospital, Miss Bradley distributed the following "Sanitary Stores" among others: 64 blankets, 67 quilts, 355 pairs of slippers, 10,096 towels, 100 woolen vests, 850 woolen mittens, 1,263 woolen shirts, 200 woolen drawers, 500 cotton drawers, 24,200 envelopes, 1,272 cotton shirts, 803 coarse combs, 178 fine combs, besides corn starch, cocoa, beef stock, brandy, rice, sugar, tamarind vinegar, etc., etc., etc.

Miss Bradley's method of issuing the stores was eminently judicious, and may be given in her own words:

"I arrived on the 17th December. On the 21st, when the soldiers were all assembled in line for inspection, I passed around with the officers and supplied seventy-five men with woolen shirts; I worked on the principle of supplying only the very needy. The same day I visited the tents, and finding many sick men, induced the commanding officer to place at my disposal some hospital tents. I soon had a hospital, and commenced to nurse such poor fellows as I gathered from among the well men of the camp. I found others whose discharge papers had been lying in the office for some time; these men being too feeble to stand in the cold and wet and wait their turn. I carried them to my hospital and warmed and clothed them, applied for their papers, and then sent them into Washington on the way to their homes."

* * * * *

In order to guard against misapplication of the stores, Miss Bradley prepared cards to be used as requisitions upon her Storehouse, and placed them in the hands of a selected soldier in each division in the camp. This soldier or wardmaster examined the knapsacks of the men in his division, and thus acquired a knowledge of the real wants of all. Having ascertained the actual wants of the men, he sent them to the quartermaster to ascertain whether he would issue clothing on Government account. If not, they were then sent to Miss Bradley to obtain clothing or other necessaries from the Commission storehouse. By constant daily personal inspection, Miss Bradley rendered herself familiar with the wants of the soldiers, and supplied them quickly and fully. She says that from May 1st, 1863, to December 31st, 1863, with few exceptions, all the soldiers discharged from service in this camp were conveyed by her to the Commission Lodges at Washington. The number of such beneficiaries was over two thousand. When it is remembered that the vast majority of these men were suffering from incurable disease, prostrated in strength, and rendered excessively sensitive to all the trials and exposures of transportation, the value of Miss B.'s services may be in some sense appreciated. They were conveyed to Washington in ambulances, and transferred to the comfortable Lodges of the Commission to await, in comparative ease and comfort, the completion, through Commission agents, of their discharge papers. Many lives were thus saved and incalculable suffering prevented.

* * * * *

"I have never carried any point by storm; the commanding officer has always listened to my suggestions and examined my plans, and then accorded full approval and support," says Miss B.

* * * * *

"State agents and others have sometimes tried to cause me to leave the camp, but my methods and operations have always been justified by the countenance and orders of the military authorities."

* * * * *

Every one of the 111,825 inmates of the camp has passed under Miss Bradley's observation, and had his wants relieved, without any violence done to military discipline, or weakening of the sense of responsibility on the part of the officers charged to provide for the welfare of the camp. Her acts of kindness have been so numerous and complicated, that the limits of the *Bulletin* would not suffice to permit them to be recorded in detail. A.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE NAVY.

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
823 Broadway,
New York, *February 9th*, 1864.

Madam: I have received from Mr. Strong your note of yesterday, drawing attention to a statement that alleged neglect by the U. S. Sanitary Commission of the claims of the navy on its regard, is alienating friends who are not informed as to the facts of the Commission's past and present relations to that arm of the public service.

Though you do not need to be again told what you know so well, that the Commission has from the first sought to exercise its functions impartially, as a "Commission of inquiry and advice in respect to the sanitary interests of the *United States forces*,"* whether afloat or ashore, you will perhaps allow me to present to you such facts pertinent to the matter as now occur to me, for the information of any of your correspondents who may be less familiar with our work than you are.

Soon after the organization of the Commission in 1861, its good offices were officially tendered to the Hon. the Secretary of the Navy, and its practice has ever since been to renew to the chief of the medical bureau of the navy and to commanders of squadrons, as occasion has arisen, its offers of service and assistance. At its last quarterly meeting in January, the Commission appointed a committee to confer with Dr. Whelan, the chief of the naval medical bureau, concerning the present sanitary condition and wants of the navy. That its opportunities have been vastly fewer to serve the navy than the sister service in the field, detract not from its disposition to minister equitably to all the national forces whenever it may be privileged to serve them. The Commission's view of equity, in assisting the two branches of the service, is to give aid in proportion to the *need* of each.

The navy, from its compact organization, its adequate system of supply vessels, which besides the ordinary stores of food, clothing, and medicine, regularly take to each of the blockading squadrons, ice, fresh meat, and vegetables, and bring home its sick men to its well-provided Marine Hospitals; and its small percentage of casualties in its peculiar blockade duty, has much less frequently than the army afforded to the Commission the opportunity of supplying any lack of governmental service. The fact, too, that every sailor is at home on ship board, receives regularly his food and clothing, and generally secures his sleep, insures for the navy an average sanitary condition far higher than the army often attains.

And yet the occasions are, though relatively, not really few, in which the Commission has been able to supplement for the navy the provision which the best-ordered bureaux cannot in time of extended operations secure against occasional deficiencies.

Without referring to our records I may mention some of the facts of which I am personally cognizant, which illustrate the above statement.

During the early summer of 1862, the gunboats in the Pamunkey River guarding the supply depot of the Army of the Potomac, at White House Va., received not unfrequently ice, and wine, and delicate food, for the comfort of their sick. So in the James River, for a month after the memorable "seven days," the naval flotilla shared to the extent of its needs the attention of the Commission, required fortunately far less by it than by the land forces.

In July the Commission communicated to Commodore Wilkes its willingness to send semi-weekly a steamboat from Hampton Roads to the uppermost station of the James River Flotilla, which should visit each gunboat and naval vessel, receive its sick, and care for them while in transit to the hospital at Portsmouth, or elsewhere, at the pleasure of the Commodore.

The Blockading Squadron before Charleston, and the commands of Admirals Farragut and Porter on the Mississippi, have, on many an occasion, had reason to bless the kind hearts at home who projected and sustain the U. S. Sanitary Commission, whose open hand is never withheld from the sufferers of either service, when once their wants are known.

You recollect the occasion when during

* *Authorization of the Commission*, by the Secretary of War and the President of the United States, June, 1861.

the bombardment of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, below New Orleans, the medical officers of the navy were enabled by the assistance of Dr. Blake, the Commission's Inspector, to establish at Pilot Town, in the Southwest Passage, an hospital for the fleet, and to furnish it liberally with sponges, chloroform, oiled silk, adhesive plasters, bandages, lint, sheets, &c., &c., at a time when the destitution of the fleet as regards these articles was most complete.*

I pick up the "Sanitary Reporter" of January 1st, and read that on a recent trip of the Sanitary steamer Clara Bell down the Mississippi, the Commission's agent made provision of fresh vegetables to supply the wants of the U. S. gunboats about Vicksburg; and between Natchez and New Orleans furnished similar supplies to five others, the Osage, Chilicothe, Choctaw, Lafayette, and Champion.

While I am writing this letter a report comes in from a Relief Agent of the Commission, who has recently visited the naval stations at and about Key West, Florida.

I make a brief extract: "We also found at Tortugas the gunboat ——, Capt. —— commander, no surgeon on board, number of men sixty-five. Capt. —— stated that there has been no vegetables on board during the past six weeks. Consequently I thought it proper to issue to the men a limited supply, which was very gratefully received."

I have frequent reason to know that the officers of the navy themselves do not share the opinions of those who think that the Commission neglects the navy. That some of them at least feel differently, is shown by the fact that on the last day of National Thanksgiving the officers of the sloop-of-war Saratoga made a generous offering in aid of the treasury of the Commission, of whose impartial beneficence they had been witnesses; and by the other fact that at the late fair in aid of the Cincinnati Branch of the Commission, both officers and crews of the Northern Mississippi flotilla, from the Admiral to the powder boys, cheerfully gave a day's pay to swell the funds, which were to return in part to them converted into the material of relief for their future necessities.

Desiring to enable you to set right your correspondents, I have not waited to seek evidence from our archives, but hope that I have been able to show that the U. S. Sanitary Commission has ever desired to lend its helping hand to any portion of the national forces, East, West, or South, afloat or ashore, that requires its ministry.

I am, madam, very truly yours,

J. Foster Jenkins,

General Sec'y of the U. S. Sanitary Com.

Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler, New York.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TROOPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

In the month of February, 1863, the undersigned, by order of the Executive Committee of the Commission, established a depot for sanitary and hospital stores, at Beaufort, S. C., in this department.

The Commission previously had had agents here, but no permanent station. We were warmly welcomed by Major-General David Hunter, commanding the department, and by him sustained until he was relieved early in June following.

At this period ——— regiments were stationed at eleven different localities, and extending over the entire department, a distance of 250 miles. To carefully inspect these regiments was the first business of the undersigned. The results of this inspection have been communicated to the proper department of the Commission. I may here state a very noticeable difference in the morale of the two corps then constituting the command, believing that neglect of sanitary laws, quite as much as all other circumstances, had to do with the irregularities and dissatisfaction prevalent in certain camps.

The larger portion of this command, mostly from New England and New York, had been here from the occupancy of these islands in November, 1861. They were inured to toil, obedient to discipline, observant of sanitary laws, in person and quarters, and were an efficient, contented body of men. By the side of these, were regiments from the —— army corps, who were discontented, and occasionally accused of a tendency to insubordination, neglectful of conditions essential to health. Among these there was a much greater percentage of sickness than in other portions of the army similarly situated. The first business of the inspector was to advise officers and privates of the necessity of stricter compliance with sanitary laws, to secure an increased standard of health. And with this compliance came

* See *The U. S. Sanitary Commission, A Sketch of its Purposes and Work, p.* 202. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 16mo, pp. 300.

not health, simply, but a marked improvement in efficiency and discipline. This fact was subsequently acknowledged by those in command. We are justified in ascribing the improved morale to attention to sanitary rules, hitherto neglected, by the fact that in this —— corps were regiments subjected to all the conditions of locality, &c., which produced in contiguous regiments a disorderly spirit, but which were efficient, contented, and happy; and that these were the regiments most remarkable for personal neatness, and for the cleanliness of their camps and quarters. Your inspector believes that not the least of the benefits in this war rendered to officers by the Sanitary Commission, has been its indirect influence in promoting discipline by increased attention to sanitary precautions, among the men of their respective commands.

Among the first efforts to mitigate suffering in this department, was the attempt to alleviate the condition of the soldier going North, discharged from the service in consequence of sickness. Up to this time, the man who had served his country faultlessly, and sickened in her service, was discharged; and without any provision for his enfeebled condition, in clothing or care, was shipped upon any Government transport, as a thing no longer useful. The consequences can be readily seen—much suffering and many deaths in transit. The inspector immediately supplied all that could contribute to the personal comfort of these unfortunate men; and, in some instances, sent attendants to minister to their wants upon the voyage. This, however, could not meet the exigency entirely. Upon these transports was no accommodations, nor proper medical care. After consultation by your inspector with members of the Commission, and subsequently with Gen. Hunter, the *Cosmopolitan*, a spacious steamer, with capacity for three hundred and twenty-five beds, was set apart by the General as a hospital ship, for the purpose of conveying the sick or wounded to their destination, and consigned to the medical director of the department.

The Commission immediately issued to this steamer two hundred and fifty beds, and other requisites; and has since continued to contribute supplies. This provision has been crowned with success; and under the able management of the surgeons assigned it by the medical director, many lives have been saved that must by ordinary modes of transportation been sacrificed.

The last two weeks in March, and first two in April, were devoted to preparation for the first Charleston expedition. Abundant preparations were made by us for any exigency; but happily no casualty occurred, nor was there any call upon our stores.

A schooner of ample dimensions had been assigned us by General Hunter, giving, as was his wont, timely notice for preparation. And here it is but simple justice to this officer to remark, that there has been no reticence in his communications to the Commission of whatever would contribute to an early preparation for any emergency. Immediately after this unsuccessful movement, preliminary steps were taken towards a repetition of the advance upon Charleston, by way of Morris Island, etc. General Gilmore has since secured Morris Island as the base for further advances.

The months of May and June were devoted by your inspector and his assistant to the wants of the troops conducting offensive operations against Morris Island, and of those stationed at Hilton Head, Beaufort, Fernandina, and other posts in the department.

Very early in July active operations commenced on Folly Island. A large brig (and a tow) had been assigned us by the general commanding, to transfer all necessary stores. On the 8th and 9th we took in cargo from the depot at Beaufort; on the 9th left Port Royal harbor; and early on the morning of the 10th, in the waters of Stono, threw out to the breeze, from the mast-head, the flag of the Sanitary Commission. The successful assault was made on that morning, with trifling loss on our part. The circumstances connected with it have been already communicated, and I will not repeat them. It is proper, however, to remark, in this connection, that the *Cosmopolitan*, which was returning from a trip north with disabled men, was at 8 A. M. passing off Stono, and noticing what was transpiring, ran to Hilton Head, fifty-two miles distant, reported, and returned to the scene of operations before 4 P. M.; thus making one hundred and four miles in less than eight hours. I mention this to show the zeal of the medical department in the discharge of its obligations. And if at any point in this article I speak of seeming deficiencies in that department, I wish it distinctly understood that these arose from circumstances beyond control, and not from any lack of sympathy, activity, or intelligence on the part of the medical staff.

If the history of this war is ever properly written, its brightest page will be that which recounts (imperfectly even) the untiring assiduity and self-denial of the medical staff in the discharge of its immense responsibilities.

Dr. Crane, medical director, and Dr. Dibble, chief medical officer of the island, with ambulances, immediately proceeded to the upper end of the island, where early in the day hospitals had been improvised for the wounded, principally Confederates, few of our men having suffered. These wounded were consigned to your inspector,

who transferred them to the *Cosmopolitan*, in charge of Dr. Bontacore, for which position there are few so well qualified by professional ability and energy.

The wounded, comfortably placed in berths, were the same night removed to Hilton Head; and the next morning, at eight o'clock, the *Cosmopolitan* entered the harbor. During the morning it was ascertained that the boat could ascend Folly River, on the opposite side of the island, within a half mile of the hospitals. At 11 A. M. the boat was anchored there. At 12 M. of the same day, (July 11,) an unsuccessful assault, in which we lost one hundred and thirty-one men, was made upon Fort Wagner, to which the enemy had retired the morning previous. These wounded were first cared for at the hospitals, and thence transferred to the boat. And here I ought to pay a tribute to the untiring energy and tact of Messrs. Hoadley and Day, of the Commission, who, with their assistants, met the necessities of every wounded man on the preceding, on this, and on subsequent days; administering to their wants in the temporary hospitals, supplying clothing, accompanying the ambulances to the boat, furnishing extra clothing and stores upon it, if needed, on its passage to the general hospitals at the Head and Beaufort; cheerful under exhausting labors, and inspiring the sufferer with hope. From the 11th to the 18th the willing strength of the whole command was taxed continuously in preparation for the coming assault. Every particle of transportation was necessarily devoted to the munitions of war, which accounts, in part, for any deficiencies that may have been experienced in the medical and commissariat departments. In this interim the Commission added in large quantities to the stores it already had on Morris Island; conveyed thither by a circuitous route, not less than seven miles, in rowboats, furnished, and in part manned, by the obliging quartermaster, Captain Dunton. The men detailed for this unusual and somewhat hazardous employment, (the enemy holding one bank of the stream,) worked night and day with a will; and many a poor fellow who subsequently received the benefit of the supplies of the Commission, may thank these soldiers for the sole and laborious method by which these abundant supplies were placed within available distance. On the evening of the 15th our tents were arranged and flag floating. After consulting Brig.-General Seymour, commanding the advanced force, it was resolved to supply every man in the front, and ultimately all who should participate in the assault, with tea, Boston crackers, and concentrated beef for soup. This provision was absolutely essential, from circumstances already given; and many a poor fellow, on the night of the 18th, fought with great bravery, aided by the encouragement and strength afforded by this food, continuously bestowed by the Commission for nearly seventy-two hours previous.

The manner of the attack, (on Saturday night, the 18th July,) incidents connected with it, disposition of the respective forces, numbers, &c., being purely military matters, I shall pass over. The participation of your employees in the scenes which transpired I will briefly describe.

On the afternoon of the 18th each individual attached to the Commission had his work assigned, and the means with which to accomplish it put within his reach; and greater praise cannot be given than the statement of the simple truth, that the next morning witnessed that each man (with one or two exceptions, and for a few moments only, and in circumstances of great peril) had faithfully discharged the duty appointed him.

The Sanitary corps were distributed as follows: A portion to act as auxiliary to the medical force in the front and in the hospitals; another to assist the wounded at the hospital, and conduct them thence to the boats, (two beside the *Cosmopolitan* had been secured,) which were to convey them to the general hospitals at Beaufort; and a third to render any additional assistance which might become necessary in their transit. This terrible repulse illustrated the benefits and defined the position of the Sanitary Commission. For on this fatal night, to the extent of my knowledge, not a blanket nor change of apparel, nor bedsack nor pillow, to save torn limbs or fractured heads from the crowded decks, but was furnished by the Commission. As previous to the assault the Commission fed, so now it supplied whatever could mitigate the sufferings of the unfortunate soldier. Abundant changes of clothing were placed upon each boat, to use if necessary during the voyage. In anticipation of casualties the Commission, previous to the expedition, had supplied the five hospitals in Beaufort to the extent of their capacity. On the arrival of the wounded six more hospitals were opened, and fully furnished from our stores.

We will pass over the interim of ten days on the field. Nature, meanwhile, is not forgetful of her dues. For weeks previous to the assault, in the enthusiasm of toil and confidence of triumph she had given the soldier credit for her expenditures; but now in the despondency which ever follows defeat, the exhaustion of vital force, the scantily furnished and unsuitable diet, with depressing climate and continuous labor, she prosecutes her claim. Decisive evidence of a tendency to scurvy becomes quite general throughout the command. And although inspired by the unwavering

hope of ultimately reducing Charleston, the vital forces were compelled to succumb, and soon, in many instances, one half the regiment answered to the sick call. Here again the untrammeled capacity of the Commission for immediate action demonstrated its utility. Your inspector made at once immense requisitions on the Commission, which were honored with a liberality that will forever endear them to these suffering patriots. The abundance of fresh vegetables and acid fruits which they furnished, soon produced a decided and happy change. And here it may be remarked that the ordinary diarrhœas and even dysentery of this region are most successfully treated by the exhibition of acids. Pickles, onions, vinegar, lime juice, the mineral acids, particularly nitric and the "Liquor Ferri Nitratis," proved the most certain remedies. At this point was introduced a new feature by the agents of the Commission in this department, and ultimately sanctioned by their superiors. This was to supply with vegetables not only the sick and wounded, but all on duty; which seemed the only way to check the prevailing malady. The malady was thus not only checked, but eradicated; for at the present time not one well-marked case of scurvy—the scourge of crowded, ill-nourished troops—is reported in the entire command. The appreciation of this act of the Commission in furnishing these absolutely essential supplies, cannot be better illustrated than by the congratulatory order of the Maj.-Gen. Commanding, which was read at the head of every regiment throughout the department; unless, indeed, the voluntary honor paid the flag of the Commission by the passing salute of various regiments be so considered.

Another feature peculiar to this department has been a liberal supply of ice, furnished by the Commission to all privates in the command. The frozen streams of Maine have been made to cool, not only the burning lips of fever, but to assuage the thirst of exhausting toil in South Carolina. It is believed a far greater amount of labor and a higher standard of health have been secured by these daily issues of ice to every soldier.

There are two points in connection with this campaign that deserve special notice. One the constant and still continued aid rendered your employees by the military authorities. Not a wish could be suggested but it was complied with, and not unfrequently requests were anticipated. Fines and goods confiscated for infraction of laws of trade have been turned over to the Commission for distribution to the soldier. And especially has the nurturing care of the head of the department, Maj.-Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, been extended to the Commission.

The other point to which I would call attention is, the fraternal welcome and assistance in the discharge of duty extended by the entire medical corps in the department. Their systematic aid has rendered unnecessary the employment of numerous agents, lightened the personal labors of your inspector, and conferred upon him obligations that he will ever remember. And here it is proper to state that the devotion of many of these medical men to their regiments has awakened everlasting gratitude in the hearts of the recipients, and called forth the admiration of every beholder. Though not so directly exposed to the bullets of the enemy, yet to a danger even greater, by constant contact with disease, no class of men in the army deserves so well of their country as the regimental surgeons.

The enthusiasm that fired the soldier in the earlier period of the siege may have somewhat abated, but his determination to do remains unchanged. Many instances of chivalrous daring could be given, but these belong to military history. The health of the command is good; the total of sickness and casualties at present not exceeding 6¾ per cent.

The amount of expenditures during the first eight weeks of the siege was exceedingly liberal, and has secured for the Commission a character for acute discernment and active sympathy with the suffering soldier that will ever be remembered by the army in this department.

It may be remarked that the necessity for these large issues was, in part, occasioned by the accession of troops from the north, in a most destitute and enfeebled condition. All the receipts and issues for the current year are appended.

Within the past six weeks your inspector has visited each of the posts in the department, and has been exceedingly gratified to witness the improved condition of the men, their buoyancy of spirit, intention to keep the field while their country needs their services, and not least, the almost paternal confidence with which they regard the United States Sanitary Commission.

RECEIPTS AND ISSUES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

	Received.	*Issued.*	*In store.*
Cotton shirts	4,900	4,544	356
Woolen "	5,758	3,534	2,224
Cotton drawers	3,163	3,013	150
Cotton flannel drawers	568	406	162
Woolen "	2,676	1,552	1,124
Cotton socks	2,107	1,890	217
Woolen "	3,532	1,271	2,261
Slippers	2,736	2,499	237
Wrappers	1,089	789	300
Handkerchiefs	9,154	6,814	2,340
Outside clothing.....boxes.	6	5	1
Bed-sacks	1,472	1,350	122
Pillow ticks	1,888	1,517	371
Pillows	1,263	1,118	145
Pillow cases	3,206	2,396	610
Sheets	2,859	2,531	328
Blankets	701	435	266
Quilts	712	682	30

	Received.	*Issued.*	*In store.*
Towels	9,776	7,106	2,670
Cushions	2,213	2,023	190
Lint	bbls. 39	32	7
Bandages	" 34	31	3
Old cotton	112	91	21
Groceries, miscellaneous	lbs. 104	104	..
Beef-stock	" 3,629	2,885	744
Dried fruit	bbls. 70	63	7
" apples	" 87	82	5
Green "	" 209	209	..
Ale	" 5	5	..
Crackers	" 392	330½	61½
Sugar, white	" 34½	32½	2
Vinegar	" 36	30	6
Cabbage in currie	" 255	253	2
Onions	" 219	217	2
Pickles	" 119	107	2
Jellies and preserves	boxes. 65	63	2
Domestic wine	" 70	63	7
Foreign "	botts. 619	583	36
Brandy	" 612	542	70
Whisky	" 638	566	72
Berry, Cordial	" 582	526	56
" Shrub	" 324	300	24
Cherry Brandy	" 484	472	12
Blackberry "	" 184	184	..
Lemons	boxes. 40	40	..
Concd. Lemon	" 6	6	..
Cider	cases. 16	15	1
Syrups	boxes. 4	3	1
Ext. Ginger	15	13	2
"	bbls. 2	2	..
Arrow Root	lbs. 225	182	43
Apple Butter	galls. 60	57	3
Beef-stock	lbs. 3,629	2,885	744
Butter	" 375	355	20
Broma	" 216	192	24
Candles	" 108	81	27
Cheese	" 135	115	20
Cocoa	" 400	359	41
Chocolate	" 1,400	920	480
Coffee	" 1,452	1,071	381
Conds. Milk	" 4,002	3,170	832
Corn Starch	" 2,150	1,366	784
Tapioca	" 100	100	..
Farina	" 2,300	1,436	864
Ext. Ginger	boxes. 15	13	2
" "	barrels. 2	2	..
Cider	cases. 16	15	1
Gelatine	boxes. 10	8	2
Nutmegs	lbs. 2	2	..
Oat Meal	" 150	150	..
Tea	" 560	510	50
Tomatoes	boxes. 107	101	6
" fresh	bushels. 50	50	..
Fish, preserved	lbs. 5,000	5,000	..
Mustard	" 25	22	3
Tamarinds	bbls. 10	10	..
Lemons	boxes. 40	40	..
" Concent.	" 6	6	..
Oranges	bbls. 70	70	..
Hospital utensils	doz. 12	12	..
Alcohol	galls. 10	7	3
Bay Rum and Cologne	botts. 200	180	20
Fans	2,000	2,000	..
Combs	gross. 10	6	4
Lanterns	26	22	4
Sponges	lbs. 8	5	3
Tin Cups	1,705	1,693	12
" Pans or basins	804	792	12
" Plates	925	920	5
" Spoons	1,000	978	22
Flannel bandages	2,236	1,911	325
Lime and Disf. Agents	bbls. 8	4	4
Pipes	box. 1	1	..
Tobacco, papers	doz. 205	205	..
Reading matter	boxes. 6	6	..
Ice	tons. 390	300	90
Quinine	ozs. 62	29	33
Morphine	" 3	319	53
Chloroform	lbs. 25	22	3
Tannin	ozs. 6	6	..
Liq. Ferri Nitratis	lbs. 55	44	11
Mosquito Netting	pieces. 60	60	..
Eggs	doz. 79	79	..
" Nog	boxes. 2	2	..
Oil Silk	70	36	34
Rubber Cloth	63	35	28
Miscellaneous	boxes. 70	69	1
Hops	barrels. 2	1	1
Fresh garden vegetables	15	15	..
Potatoes	354	354	..

—*Dr. Marsh's Report.*

THE PENSION AGENCY AT WASHINGTON.

The following is a brief statement of the work of this agency for the part of the year 1863 in which it was in operation, to wit: from February 10 to December 31, both inclusive:

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR PENSIONS MADE OUT AND FILED IN THE GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFICE.

In February	116
" March	121
" April	199
" May	133
" June	87
" July	67
" August	112
" September	120
" October	64
" November	53
" December	69
Total number of claims	1,141

No exact record of the *number of claims* allowed or rejected was kept previous to the first of July. There were but few:

	Allowed.	*Rejected.*
Estimated number decided before July 1st	25	—
No. in July	56	15
" August	59	10
" September	58	19
" October	48	12
" November	98	13
" December	73	31
	417	100

Total number of claims decided 517

Leaving yet in the Pension Office undecided claims 624

No record was kept of the amount of correspondence of the office previous to the month of October. Since then it has been as follows:

Number of *circular* letters in which blanks had to be filled for the three months, October, November, and December:

Inclosed with claims allowed	215
" " rejected	53
To officers asking certificates for claimants	387
Total of *circular* letters	655

Number of letters *written in full:*

To office claimants	286
To persons having claims elsewhere	14
In reference to back-pay and bounty	25
To Commissioner of Pensions, 8; miscellaneous 50	58
Total letters *written in full*	383
Total number of letters for the three months	1,038

The correspondence was light for the first four or five months, and has gradually increased ever since.

Mr. Bascom, the director, adds in his report:

"During the period covered by this report I was assisted by two clerks; the first, Charles M.

Bliss, of Woodford, Vermont, who came into the office about the first of March, and left for home the last of July; the second, Albert P. Macomber, of Westfield, New York, who came the first of August. The latter, who was a young man of rare worth, continued in the prompt and faithful discharge of the duties devolved upon him until the 15th day of December.

"An attack of small-pox, which began on that day, and was severe from the first, terminated in death, after twelve days, on the 27th. His loss is much lamented by all who formed his acquaintance while in this office."

THE HOSPITALS AT WASHINGTON.

[Extracts from the quarterly report of G. C. Caldwell, Hospital Visitor of Sanitary Commission within defences of Washington.]

During the first two or three weeks after my return, (Nov. 13th,) the wants of the hospitals were large and pressing, owing to the great number of sick and wounded received from the army within a short time. The sick sent up when the army made its last advance, were deposited in Washington hospitals, while such of the wounded in the following battles as were brought from the front, were left at Alexandria.

* * * * * *

During the whole six weeks since my return, woolen under-clothing has been in most constant demand—in some hospitals to be used only in wards, and not to be taken away by men when leaving; in others, to be given to needy men going home or back to their regiments. I have been very emphatic in my stipulations with those to whom I entrust this clothing in the hospitals for distribution, that it shall be given only to NEEDY MEN, such as those having families whom they support, or who have *not* received any *pay* for several months and are destitute of means: and I think that this stipulation has in general been complied with.

* * * * * *

When the hospitals were filled with sick and wounded, four or five weeks ago, there were many pressing calls for head rests that could not be met because there were none in store. In other respects the kind of articles sought for has been about the same as usual. [Our Branches will understand this.]

Since the date of my last report, eight or ten regiments at hospitals have been added to my list; several of them belong to cavalry regiments encamped at Camp Stoneman. Very pressing wants were relieved by my first visits to some of these hospitals.

Since my return to my post I have made over one hundred and ninety visits to the various general, post, and regimental hospitals within my reach, and have left about as many orders to be sent in to the Central Office, for needed articles of food and clothing.

YONKERS SANITARY FAIR.

We regret to have been obliged to postpone until now all notice of the Fair in aid of the Sanitary Commission which is being held in the village of Yonkers, and is to continue through the week ending February 20th. It has been organized in the same way as the fairs which have been got up on a larger scale in the great cities, mainly, we need hardly say, through the exertions of the ladies; and it shows how much may be done, even in small places, by a few earnest and energetic men and women.

Contributions of all kinds have been solicited and accepted — contributions in money; contributions of every production of the farmers, manufacturers, machinists, mechanics, merchants, clothiers, jewelers, milliners, gardeners; contributions of music, decorations, fruits, flowers, and refreshments; contributions or loans for exhibition in the fine arts and sciences—relics, memorials, and curiosities of every sort; contributions of valentines; contributions of lectures, concerts, and dramatic entertainments.

The whole arrangements of the Fair were assigned to committees on finance, rooms and decorations, lectures, music and entertainments, refreshments, fancy work, valentines, &c., war memorials, curiosities, &c., farmers' products, groceries and provisions, paintings and fine arts, mechanics' and useful arts, flowers and fruits, dry goods, books and stationery, and printing —each having duties corresponding to their titles.

WHAT THE SURGEONS SAY OF THE COMMISSION.

[Extract from a letter from GEORGE E. HOLBROOK, Relief Agent Second Army Corps, (POTOMAC,) dated January 24th.]

"One of the medical officers told me that his hospital had been inspected by General —— and wife. The men were so comfortably situated that Mrs. —— inquired how the men could be so comfortable here in the field, where none of these things could be obtained by money, and were not furnished by the Government. She went to the head of one of the men's beds and there found the whole mystery solved:—These things had been furnished by the Sanitary Commission. 'You patronize the Sanitary Commission?' she said. 'Yes,' replied the surgeon, 'I don't know how we could get along without it, for it is always just where we want

it.' Soon after she had gone the surgeon received a number of pillow-cases for his hospital from her—many more, indeed, than he needed, for she herself had brought out quite a stock of goods to furnish the hospital.

"I find among the surgeons who have just returned from furloughs, an increase of praise of the Commission. They say, as a general thing, that while they were at home, the president of this or that society came to them, and asked if the goods sent to this Commission actually did as much good as was represented; and they had taken great pains to give the necessary explanations. One of them told me that while he was at home a president of a Soldier's Aid Society came to him and said that their society had a package and a large box to send to the soldiers, and wanted to know what his opinion was as to the best place to send it. She said, 'some of our members say they will leave the society if the goods are sent to the Sanitary Commission.'

"This surgeon labored nearly all day to set them right. He believed that the goods were sent to the Commission, and that the society still continues in its work of benevolence through the same channel."

OHIO AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

Mr. Keck, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following as a substitute for Mr. Reber's resolution of thanks to the ladies of Ohio for their patriotic services :

"*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio.* That we recognize with great satisfaction and pride the unfaltering interest taken by the people of the State in the noble work of contributing to the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of our army, and acknowledge with gratitude the munificent benevolence of those who have thus remembered the brave men who have consecrated themselves to the work of defending our imperilled country.

"We also gratefully recognize and commend the United States Sanitary Commission and its branches, through whose wide, efficient, and economical agency so large a proportion of the contributions of the State have been distributed to our soldiers; and also the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Societies, and similar organizations, which have so generously co-operated in this great work."

Bill passed.

A TRIP TO CHATTANOOGA.

How I happened to go to Chattanooga was in this wise: One day there came into camp the Rev. Thomas B. Fox, whom Governor Andrew had sent as a special agent to see Massachusetts regiments and Massachusetts soldiers in hospital, in this division.

The agent kindly asked me to accompany him to Chattanooga, and addressed a request to that effect to our corps commander, which was agreed to.

Mr. Fox and myself tried to go on Tuesday, Dec. 29, but the train did not stop; but we succeeded on Wednesday. The train stops at Decherd for dinner. If anybody invites you to do so, don't you do it. Be warned in time. On the train, the civilian conductor examines your transportation paper, and the military one your military pass. The civil was not military, but the military man was civil. Nevertheless, he insisted on keeping my pass, because he argued that it was not good as far as Stevenson, on the ground that it covered ten miles beyond! I afterwards recovered it, however, by arguments effective and honest but potent. Mr. Fox had no trouble, for he was loaded with all manner of authority from Gen. Grant and a crowd of others.

It was after dark when Stevenson was reached, and it was raining. No passenger car runs further, and one hunts around until he guesses which baggage car (not of the train just arrived) is likely to go. We luckily discovered, at the last moment, the right car. Ten miles on is Bridgeport—a town without a house in it. Darkness, rain, and mud were uncomfortable to total strangers. But we found the SANITARY COMMISSION, God bless it! It was in tents. But what a change! Out of the cold and driving storm, into warm quarters, with a cup of excellent tea speedily made for the writer's racking headache—excellent blankets to sleep in, on a hay-stuffed bed, and with good Dr. Coates as the presiding genius. And other travelers, and suffering soldiers—all taken care of—fed, clothed, wounds dressed, bed furnished at the Home. I tell you people at the North, pile up your supplies, give your money, strengthen the Commission every way. That Commission *saves life.*

From Bridgeport to Chattanooga as yet, we go by boat—the boat was not "in" the next morning, but it came late in the afternoon. It would leave in *three* hours. Transportation papers must be had; and at the office, far away from the boat, they said it would leave in *five* hours. We go, with others, to the boat; now it will leave in the night *some time.* The Sanitary has a Home there, (not the headquarters,) and we go in to wait. Before midnight we find the boat will go in the *morning.* In the various tents of the Commission are *two hundred and fifty* sheltered. The night becomes savagely cold. It is *impossible* to keep warm or sleep. In our tent are men, women, and children—white refugees from Southern tyranny included. For the fun of the thing, just fancy your correspondent chopping wood at half-past two A. M., with the thermometer down out of sight freezing. But in the group was a pretty little

girl of two years, with parents escaping with only life, from their burning house, fired by Southern brutality.

In the morning, the boat will leave at *eleven*. So we walked back to Sanitary headquarters. It was a bitterly cold day. There is a crowd. Here, a soldier to go North, his arm is dressed, he is fed; thinly clothed—a warm woolen sack is buttoned on him, and the armless sleeve pinned over, and he goes off happy. Another is on crutches, his wound is cared for, he is supplied as the other, and is helped to the cars. Here, a lone woman, all the way from New Jersey, to find her sick husband—mild, patient, grateful, careless of fatigue, with miles yet to go, and she is sheltered, fed, and directed; a good woman, she says she has "found only Christian people all the way." A mother, who has come to see her wounded son, an officer; alas! his corpse has passed her on the road, and she is to return. And so with the multitude. But perhaps as near to the heart as anybody—a little girl of five years, who, with others, had sat in baggage cars all the cold night, (in which time three soldiers had *perished* of cold,) the managers had carelessly unfastened that car, and left it. The little girl, half frozen and crying, had come up with the others to the Sanitary. And now, warmed and fed, the child was happy, and I showed her the picture of another little girl, and we were friends, and when she left they wrapped warm things around her, and pulled socks over her shoes, and a strong helper carried her in his arms to the train. The Sanitary cared for the little girl; it was somebody's child; *mine* of the same age might have been there, and so for the love of a blue-eyed girl at home, I owe just as much debt as anybody, and say again, God bless the Sanitary!

On the boat. It is to leave at twelve. To leave at two. To leave at five. It *did* leave at *seven*. It was the Paint-Rock, a funny old two-story barn with a wheezy tea-kettle arrangement for running it. The weather was horribly cold. The "cabin" was a canvas box on the top of the aforesaid barn. A few inches of it was warmed by an ancient cooking-stove, one door of which had departed. It is sixty-two miles to Chattanooga by river, it is twenty-eight by rail.

On the boat were some delegates of the Christian Commission. They had some private stores of food; but they, in the dearth, shared with all. They made tea—they furnished bread. They did all the good possible. The passengers became their warm friends, from the conduct of these delegates, which was truly Christian. I was glad to meet Rev. Calvin Holman, of New Hampshire—an experienced, judicious, and able minister, and it was pleasant to pass much of the night together in common topics. The Commission opened its doors here to shelter to its utmost capacity; and there the soldier's wife found friends to help her to her husband.

Pulled up the rapids by ropes, or worked up by steam far higher than the Government allowance of pressure; sighting bold Lookout, the scene of gallant combat, around its base—and so, about 9 P. M., we reached Chattanooga. Hospitable doors are open, and friends are found.

Now all this has a purpose. It took four days to get this short distance. Just consider that this is the main way of getting supplies here, and be *patient.—Chaplain Quint, in the Congregationalist.*

A RELIEF AGENT AND HIS MULES "BRINGING UP THE REAR."

One Sunday morning in October, the assistant superintendent of the Sanitary Commission Field Relief Corps, accompanied by the Relief Agent of the 6th Army Corps, was pushing a wagon load of sanitary supplies from Alexandria to the front. His thoughts, bent on the pleasant business of carrying relief to the suffering, were all unmindful of dangers from guerrillas, or any such hostile folk. Suddenly a company of cavalry, drawn up in line of battle, met his eye when about five miles this side of Fairfax. Inquiring the reason, he was ordered to return, and was informed that a party of guerrillas had attacked the cavalry and killed the captain and one private. Obeying the order, he countermarched his mules and headed for Alexandria. Soon the cry of "they come" reached his ear. Vigorous were the blows which the fleet-footed mules received, as they practiced the double-quick towards the fortifications; but soon it was evident that the mules could not, with all their speed, keep up with their more noble brethren, the horses. Then there was a John Gilpin race; the cavalry lead the advance, the assistant superintendent kept the mules "well up" to proper speed, and "*ye galliant relief agent*" guarded the rear. Thus they reached Alexandria, and when next they run may we be there to tell the tale.

WHAT CAN WOMAN DO?

At a meeting of the Union League, of the women of Chester County, held on Thursday, the 23d of July, a member of the League, after making the following preliminary remarks, read, to the great satisfaction and pleasure of all present, the appeal to the women of America, which we give below.

My Friends:—I had intended this afternoon to try and answer the question now so frequently asked—What can woman do in these sad and trying times?—what can woman do to help to save the Nation? The mere fact of this question being asked is, I think, a most encouraging sign. It

shows that we are becoming awake to the great interests and duties of the hour.

The war in which we are engaged is, as you all know, not a war of arms only; it is a war of opinion also.

The force of arms may fail; "the battle is not always to the strong," but the power of right cannot fail. This power is ours. The power of principle, of virtue, of love, of religion. Who can measure its force? To increase this moral power is every woman's duty. Let us then unite to use it. Let it not lie dormant in our hearts. In this time of our country's need, let us not be found wanting. Cast aside all prejudices and selfish indulgences, and speak boldly, fearlessly out, God's holy truths. Be not deaf to the silent pleadings of the down-trodden and oppressed. "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you." Buckle on the armor of truth, and with all the strength that is in you, fight with the weapons of all-conquering love the great fight.

The material support which you have given the cause has been beautiful to behold.

We ask of you still more.

We ask for all the moral support and encouragement which every true, loyal, earnest woman has it in her power to give.

For God's sake, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of your country, arouse to the call, and prove yourselves worthy of the name of women, and of Christians.

WHAT CAN WOMAN DO?—Much, every way. Each woman has her appointed work in these days, and God helping her, can nobly fulfill it. For these are strong, earnest days, and woe to the woman or man who stands idly gazing by the highway, while the chariot wheels of destiny roll on to their grand fulfillment.

The roar, and rush, and smoke of battle is around us; our first morning thoughts are high hopes this day right may have might; our latest waking prayers are for those known and unknown, whose weary heads are pillowed only on mother earth's cold breast, whose unquiet slumbers Heaven's canopies and the stars watch. But you and I sit still at home, oh! women and girls of America, under the same home roofs, beside the same sheltered hearthstones as before this "cruel war" began. To pull lint and make pillow cases is not the noblest work for us; noble, I grant you, and necessary, but not the only work. Neither are prayers all the soldiers ask for. We must, we do pray for them in an exceeding agony of supplication, asking the all-present God to care for those gone so far from our care, to shield those so fearfully exposed, to save our best and dearest.

And from our knees we must rise with new strength, and though through tears our eyes may be dim, and the lips that smile may be cold and white, we must look and speak noble words of encouragement, saying—Go, though shells fall and cannons roar. Go for God and the right. He will shelter and save though the salvation may be in another world than this, though the shelter may be a nameless grave, beside an unknown tree. We must let them go—our *fathers, husbands, brothers, lovers, sons* Does it seem too hard? Are we only weak and loving, and so leave heavier burdens to be borne by our brave defenders? Our weakness needs their strength; strengthen we then their hands by our words, and acts, and prayers.

Make a true man to feel that he is most worthy a true woman's regard when he most unselfishly forgets all but the great cause of this day and hour.

It is one man's duty to stay at home as clearly as it is another's to go forth. BOTH can do duty and march onward, conquering and to conquer. Fighting with moral as well as material weapons for God's great cause—Freedom! Does this word mean freedom for you and for me, and not for women with darker skins, but as tender hearts? Oh! women, with mothers and sisters, and children, let us not see dimly, and so lose our slain in this noble strife.

Behold the auroral lights of victory breaking over the eastern hill. Hearken, from the far Judean plains comes the voice of Him who spake as never man spake. Through and over the strife and weariness of long centuries, comes to me with its just force and strength, the ever new and all-comforting utterance—"I come to preach deliverance to the captive, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

Shall you and I fail to do our part in this holy work? We will not. Sacred to us shall be our country. Sacred each soldier fighting for her. Sacred the truths for which they fight. No word, treasonable or traitorous, shall be breathed in our ears, or uttered under our roof. Let no sneers at men or measures make us forget WHY this strife rages. Destroy a seditious pamphlet. Burn a rebellious paper. Scorch with fire of eye and glance all malcontents, who cannot look beyond the narrow, paltry range of party and of self. Have no fellowship with those who are content to sit still and question the ultimate success of our arms. These are exceptional days, exceptional vices seem to rage. Let each woman show her love of loyalty, her devotion to country, her readiness to do and give all for the cause.

Are honor and honesty, purity and patriotism all to die? and we only of all nations lift no promise to the future? "To be judged by the event is the inexorable law of history."

We are living and producing events each day. Shall not each day see us with words

of mingled pathos and strength, holding up to view the noble end for which the fight is fought. *True freedom—real liberty.* For these let us live—for these be willing to die.

Then shall treason and traitors cease, and men learn to remember the meaning of their prayers, when they ask—"From all sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion, good Lord, deliver us." Too many hearts never utter this petition; too many throb coldly for their country, beleagured, sore beset; too many are more ready to cavil and carp, than to do and die. Put before all such, before all you can influence, the great ends, God's designs, to work out by this purifying trial.

Our iniquities, as a nation, have been heaped up abominations; see to it that we receive not amiss the scourge our sins deserve. Dismayed, ashamed, afraid, I listen to too many who cry "peace, on good terms it may be, but in any case peace." I hear of *falling stocks* and *conscription*, and habeas corpus, till I wonder at the Divine patience. It is as if people gazed at the glimmer of a night lamp, and clamored of darkness, while all about the glad, great sunshine lay without. I hear women, otherwise good and earnest, say, "Perish all things, but my heart's treasures cannot go." Do we need, you and I, born to the fair heritage of this fairest land, be told the grand utterance of old, which even heathens acted on, "Blessed and glorious is it to die for one's country." Our country needs us—let us not fail it. From farm house and school room, from city home and village streets, let us rise mightily. We do not know our influence. Had Eve not been dearer than God, would Adam have broken the primal law? Use nobly the God-given power. Give moral aid, and material help and prayers, and cries to Heaven, and soon our banners shall wave in victorious breezes. Send forth, if need be, each woman of us all our best and dearest, though our heart's blood go with them. They may come back to us triumphant, jubilant, laurel-crowned. Or from fever ward, and weary hospital bed, they, returning, totter into our outstretched arms. Or never more may they come again. Hope may fail, expectation die, and suspense end. The familiar foot-fall, the warm hand-clasp, the loving eyes, the gentle speech are gone. And to us left behind no flower is ever fragrant again, no sunset ever glorious, no moonlight soft. But

"Death's consummation crowns completed life."

The sun shines, and the rain falls on the nameless grave. God's help is for all our deeds. The outstretched arms from the cross embrace us all. Very near are the surging waves of the dark river. On the other side is only light. I hear the divine melody of the voice that calls—"Come unto me all ye that are weary, and I will give you rest." Rest. Only to be won after strife for God's great purposes. Put a living action into this million-fold movement, this tossing sea of starry flags. "The day is darkest before the dawn." That morning dawns when wars and battles over, the perfect Light of Peace shall flood the world immortal.

"We women wait, and watch, and pray,
With thrilling pulse from day to day,
Then fold our useless hands and say;
One way is left—to aid, to speak
The word that flushes all the cheek.

Our God is here; his finger shines
Along our land in fiery lines;
Arise! obey the stern command,
Come forth! 'tis Freedom bids you stand,
Go, strike for God and Fatherland."

When this League was organized in April, 1863, a paper was read by Mrs. Heister explanatory of its objects, the foremost amongst which was, of course, the use of such influence as women possess for the diffusion and encouragement amongst all classes of the community of a sound and healthy feeling of attachment to the Government and the laws. And she added:

"And lastly, we propose to give our unceasing efforts for the support, encouragement, and comfort of our soldiers in the field and in the hospital. As the President of the Sanitary Commission said in one of his addresses, 'So long as the men fight, the women must knit and sew.'

"Your sympathy has ever been, and still is I am sure, with our sick and wounded soldiers; for who are these soldiers but our nearest and dearest kindred and friends? The tokens of affection which we send to them not only evince our sympathy in their sufferings and privations, but give to them great moral support and encouragements, and their claims to our continued efforts in their behalf will not, cannot, must not cease, until this fearful rebellion be crushed, and peace proclaimed.

RELIEF WORK UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE.

Mr. John Stevens, Jr., one of our Relief Agents in the Southwest, writes from New Iberia:

I have given out the larger portion of my stock, and am now packed up ready to leave for Franklin to-morrow, if possible. I have determined to make this move after consultation with those who know best here. There will be no need of me for a few days at least, and I can easily return if necessary. Nearly all the sick have already been sent from the general hospital. When the vegetables and pickles arrive I wish you would advise me, for they are needed here, although there is plenty of fresh meat.

On Christmas, at the invitation of Dr. Sanger

and Col. Molyneux, I went out with a flag of truce for the exchange of prisoners, taking supplies for the sick. An ambulance for chests, and a horse was placed at my disposal. There was quite a large party of officers, making it very agreeable. We took out some two hundred and fifty rebels, and received seven hundred of our own men. They were a most forlorn-looking set of men. Covered with rags and dirt, many of them foot-sore and worn out by the long march, hardly one with a whole pair of shoes, they had not even their nakedness covered. I had punch, coffee, and beef stock made for the sick, who took it greedily and seemed refreshed. The rebel officers thought the Sanitary Commission was "quite an institution;" said they had heard of it before.

NOTES ON NURSING.

NOISE.

Every thing you do in a patient's room, after he is "put up" for the night, increases tenfold the risk of his having a bad night. But, if you rouse him up after he has fallen asleep, you do not risk, you secure him a bad night.

One hint I would give to all who attend or visit the sick, to all who have to pronounce an opinion on sickness or its progress. Come back and look at your patient *after* he has had an hour's animated conversation with you. It is the best test of his real state we know. But never pronounce upon him from merely seeing what he does, or how he looks, during such a conversation. Learn also carefully and exactly, if you can, how he passed the night after it.

People rarely, if ever, faint while making an exertion. It is after it is over. Indeed, almost every effect of over-exertion appears after, not during such exertion. It is the highest folly to judge of the sick, as is so often done, when you see them merely during a period of excitement. People have very often died of that which, it has been proclaimed at the time, has "done them no harm."

As an old experienced nurse, I do most earnestly deprecate all such careless words. I have known patients delirious all night, after seeing a visitor who called them "better," thought they "only wanted a little amusement," and who came again, saying, "I hope you were not the worse for my visit," neither waiting for an answer nor even looking at the case. No real patient will ever say, "Yes, but I was a great deal the worse."

It is not, however, either death or delirium of which, in these cases, there is most danger to the patient. Unperceived consequences are far more likely to ensue. *You* will have impunity—the poor patient will *not*. That is, the patient will suffer, although neither he nor the inflicter of the injury will attribute it to its real cause. It will not be directly traceable, except by a careful observant nurse. The patient will often not even mention what has done him most harm.

Remember never to lean against, sit upon, or unnecessarily shake, or even touch the bed in which a patient lies. This is invariably a painful annoyance. If you shake the chair on which he sits, he has a point by which to steady himself, in his feet. But on a bed or sofa, he is entirely at your mercy, and he feels every jar you give him all through him.

In all that we have said, both here and elsewhere, let it be distinctly understood that we are not speaking of hypochondriacs. To distinguish between real and fancied disease forms an important branch of the education of a nurse. To manage fancy patients forms an important branch of her duties. But the nursing which real and that which fancied patients require is of different, or rather of opposite, character. And the latter will not be spoken of here. Indeed, many of the symptoms which are here mentioned are those which distinguish real from fancied disease.

It is true that hypochondriacs very often do that behind a nurse's back which they would not do before her face. Many such I have had as patients who scarcely ate any thing at their regular meals; but if you concealed food for them in a drawer, they would take it at night or in secret. But this is from quite a different motive. They do it from the wish to conceal. Whereas the real patient will often boast to his nurse or doctor, if these do not shake their heads at him, of how much he has done, or eaten, or walked.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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3*d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
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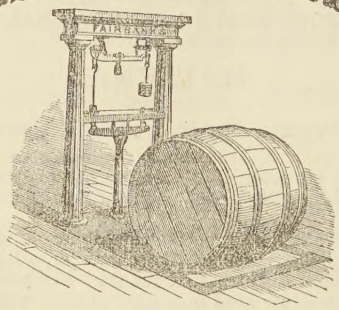

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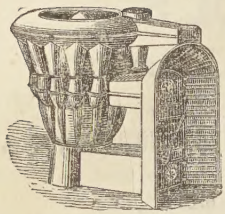

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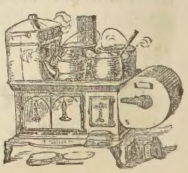

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